

DEATH RECORDS/
CHART NO. 18
DATE < 8/11
58/85

MR CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

MY NAME IS J A' ZIGGY' ZIEGLER,(Z I E G L E R), 37 YEAR
RESIDENT OF BILLINGS, MONTANA, FORMER YELLOWSTONE
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRESENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE
MONTANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE AND MEMBER OF THE
COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY.

IT IS OF ANY INTEREST TO TELL YOU THAT I AM A FAMILY
VICTIM MEMBER ,HAVING ENDURED THE AGONY OF MY
FATHERS SENSELESS MURDER IN A FOILED ROBBERY ATTEMPT.
THAT THROUGH MY FAITH, MY FAMILY AND MY FRIENDS I
HAVE COME TO FORGIVE THOSE WHO TOOK HIM FROM ME. I
HAVE MOVED ON WITH MY LIFE AND FIND COMFORT IN
COUNSELLING WITH THOSE INCARCERATED WHO SEEK SOME
SORT OF SOLACE OR REDEMPTION FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

PERHAPS MY EFFORTS SHOULD BE TO EXPLORE, IF I MAY, THE
REASONING OR RATIONALE WHY OUR STATE SEEKS THE
DEATH PENALTY IN CAPITAL CASES THAT SEEM TO WARRANT
SUCH A JUDGEMENT.

I AM A DISABLED KOREAN ARMY VETERAN. I HAVE SEEN MY
SHARE OF DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT JUSTIFIED BY OUR
GOVERNMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING OUR
FREEDOMS AND OUR BELOVED COUNTRY.AFTER BEING SO
TRAINED TO DEFEND AND PROTECT, THE DAY COMES WHEN
YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT YOUR SERVICES ARE NO LONGER
NEEDED, THANK YOU, NOW GO BECOME A GOOD CITIZEN.
FIFTY SEVEN YEARS LATER I STILL HAVE VISIONS OF MY
ACTIONS AS A YOUNG 20 YEAR OLD ARTILLERYMAN.

DEATH, IN WHATEVER FORM, IS NEVER CONFRONTING . YET,
WE AS MORAL, CONSENTING ADULTS ARE COMPELLED TO
ALLOW ANOTHER DEATH TO OCCUR TO RIGHT AN INJUSTICE
TO ANOTHER. AS AN EFFORT TO 'WIPE THE SLATE CLEAN' AND
THEN CONCLUDE THAT NOW THINGS 'ARE EVEN' AS FAR AS
OUR LAWS DEMAND.

AS A PERSON OF STONG BELIEFS, I DO NOT CHOSE TO USE THIS FORUM BY PROSTLYSING THE VIRTUES OF THOSE ANCIENT BIBICAL WRITERS OF CENTURIES AGO.

TAKING THE LIFE OF ANOTHER PERSON, OR TWO IN MY CASE, WILL DO NOTHING TO BRING MY FATHER BACK. HE WOULD NOT, NOR DO I, WANT HIS NAME TARNISHED KNOWING THAT THE LOSS OF HIS LIFE DEMANDED TAKING THE LIVES OF TWO MORE. YOU WILL HEAR FROM THOSE STILL SUFFERING THE PAIN AND ANGUISH OF THEIR PARTICULAR EVENT, AS I STILL DO, AND WILL USE VITRIOLIC SPEECH AND RAISED VOICES DEMANDING EQUAL JUSTICE FOR THEIR LOSS. IN THEIR OPINION, THE ONLY WAY TO BEGIN CLOSURE. I ASSURE YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THERE IS NEVER CLOSURE. THERE IS ALWAYS THE MEMORIES AND I FOR ONE WILL NEVER FORGET THE EVENT IN MY LIFE

EQUAL JUSTICE IS NOT, I SAY IS NOT, TO TAKE ANOTHERS LIFE LEGALLY, AND THEN LIST IT AS 'HOMICIDE' ON THEIR DEATH CERTIFICATE.

I SUBMIT TO YOU ANOTHER WAY. LIFE IN PRISON WITHOUT THE POSIBILITY OF PAROLE, NO MATTER WHAT THE CASE OR THE CIRCUMSTANCES. NO LENGTHLY APPEALS PROCESS, NO RETRIALS. NO MEANS NO. LIFE IN PRISON TO TIME OF NATURAL DEATH.

I AM NO SCHOLAR, NO INITIALS BEHIND MY NAME OR DEGREES. BUT IN 33 YEARS OF PRISON/JAIL MINISTRY I CAN TELL YOU A FACT ... THE DEATH PENALTY IN NOT A DETERRENT TO A CAPITAL CRIME. I HAVE BEEN TOLD TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT WHEN ONE IS IN THE THROES OF COMMITTING THEIR CRIME, THE THOUGHT OF RECEIVING THE DEATH PENALTY FOR BEING CAUGHT AND/OR CONVICTED DOES NOT STOP THEM FROM GOING FORWARD.

LIFE IN PRISON FOR EVER IS, BY NO MEANS, AN EASY SENTENCE. FOR SOME IT WILL BE DIFFICULT. FOR OTHERS PERHAPS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK REDEMPTION FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

OTHERS MORE BRILLIANT THAN I ARE MORE CAPABLE OF EXPLAINING THE MONETARY ISSUE IF THAT IS A FACTOR IN YOUR DECIDING PROCESS.

THIS ISSUE IS, AND CAN BECOME, VERY EMOTIONAL FOR SOME. I HAVE BEEN CURSED AT , AND YES VERBALLY DEGRADED TO THE POINT THAT IN SOME DISCUSSIONS I MAY COME TO DOUBT MY OWN OPINIONS. HOWEVER, I AM CONVINCED THAT AGAIN, RIGHT NOW, THIS BODY HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONCUR WITH OUR PRESENTATIONS AND MOVE FORWARD WITH THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN OUR GREAT STATE.

IN CLOSING MAY I ECHO THE WORDS OF E.C. MCKENSIE WHEN HE STATES. WE ARE LIKE BEASTS WHEN WE KILL

WE ARE LIKE MEN WHEN WE JUDGE, AND,

WE ARE LIKE GOD WHEN WE FORGIVE..

THAT YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND I ASK YOUR SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 185.

J A ZIGGY ZIEGLER SR